Bhagwat Geeta Festival at Kurukshetra

4158. DR KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a suggestion has been received that instead of organizing an annual Mahabharat Festival at Kurukshetra, it would be more appropriate to have a Bhagwat Geeta Festival; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mahabharata Utsav—Geeta Jayanti Samaroh was organized by the Department in December, 2002 to coincide with and supplement the annual Geeta Jayanti Samaroh organized at Kurukshetra by the State Government.

Facilities to Temple at Tanjavour

4159**.** DR KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(c) whether steps are being taken to further improve facilities at the magnificent temple at Tanjavour; and

(a) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The preservation, conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is an ongoing process, subject to availability of resources and manpower. The works carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India to further improve the facilities at Brihadishwara Temple at Tanjavour include:

( ) underground drainage to remove storm water;

(i) Damaged/eroded bricks of pradakshina patha have been replaced;

(ii) soak-pit has been provided for abhishekha water at varahi shrine;

(iii) drinking water facility, shoe repository and prasada stall have been provided;

(iv) landscaping has been done by providing lawns etc.;

(v) Temple is illuminated during the night;

(vi) sculptures have been displayed in Mahamandapa;

(vii) Amman shrine has been air conditioned;

(viii) coir mat has been provided on pradakshina patha all around the monument;